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EXAMINER
DICKER, DENNIS T

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/656,118	MORI ET AL.
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DENNIS DICKER	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>05 November 2010</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.　　　　2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-4,6-9 and 11-15</u> is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-4,6-9 and 11-15</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>08 September 2003</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　　a)☒ All　b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

　　　1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   With regard to Claim 1 rejections, Furukawa '065 and Roztocil '868 teaches an

adaptive environment for obtaining device combinations in a workflow and Tonkin '568

further teaches how it is known in the art how a display unit is used to indicate to the

user how these device combinations can be utilized in a workflow to an operator.

Examiner further argues how Mayhew et al (US 6,239,800) further teaches how a

process flow list can be used in a printing system representing a process flow to

execute a printing job by employing device combinations obtained by an adaptive

environment determination unit and an operation to be performed by a user in a second

device, wherein the process flow list is a list in which display areas of a plurality of

procedures which constitute the printing job are listed in the order of execution, and

wherein the plurality of procedures include a work procedure in which a use. This

combination would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention

to indicate to a user or operator such tasks completed and to be completed in relation to

other tasks using other devices in s printing system. Applicants amendments further

limit the scope of the claims which when considered are moot in view of the new

grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-3, 8, 11, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Furukawa et al. (hereinafter "Furukawa '065" US 2001/0046065) in

view of Tonkin (hereinafter "Tonkin '568" 6,134,568) and Roztocil et al (hereinafter

"Roztocil '868" US PUB 2001/0044868) and further in view of Mayhew et al (US

6,239,800).

With respect to **Claim 1**, Furukawa '065 discloses a printing control apparatus

which performs a printing process employing a plurality of printing devices **(i.e., Para**

0012, a Printing control apparatus employing a plurality of printers), comprising: a

printing attribute acquisition unit **(i.e., Para 0049, Host computer)** configured to

acquire an attribute of a printing job to be processed **(i.e., Para 0050-0057, Host**

computer acquires attributes such as resolution and number of pages); an

adaptive environment determination unit configured to obtain a device combination **(i.e.,**

Para 0059, host computer does a search to determine which printers are capable

of printing the job) capable of executing the printing job based on performance

information **(i.e., Para 0060 , host computer determines match of printers based on**

speed of printers) representing at least performance of each of the plurality of printing

devices and the acquired attribute of the printing job **(i.e., Para 0060, host computer**

executes print job depending on least performance such as speed and acquired

attribute such as number of print pages) by said adaptive environment

determination means) and Tonkin '568 teaches a display unit **(i.e., Col. 4 Lines 51,**

Display) configured to display a process flow list **(i.e., 326 of Fig. 5F and Col. 7 Lines 57 61,the display shows a process flow for the printing job)** and wherein said display unit displays emphatically in the process flow list , a procedure which is to be performed next, among the plurality of procedures

The combination of Furukawa '065 and Tonkin '568 does not explicitly teach a process flow list representing a process flow to execute the printing job by employing the device combinations obtained by the adaptive environment determination unit and an operation to be performed by a user in the second device, where the device combination includes a first device and a second device which executes a process using a print product printed by the first device, wherein the process flow list is a list in which a plurality of procedures which constitute the printing job are listed in the order of execution, and wherein the plurality of procedures include a work procedure in which a user moves the print product printed by the first device from the first device to the second device and process procedures to be performed by respective printing devices included in the device combination obtained by said adaptive environment determination unit and a display unit which changes a display form of a display area of a procedure which is to be performed next among the plurality of procedures in the process flow list.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Roztocil '868, In particular, Roztocil '868 teaches a process flow list **(i.e., Para 0023 ,electronic job ticket representing instructions for assembling a job which may be displayed)** representing a process flow to execute the printing job by

employing the device combinations obtained by the adaptive environment determination

unit and an operation to be performed by a user in the second device, **(i.e., Para 0023**

and Para 0025, defined tickets with instructions to assemble job employing a

combination of devices where the each page includes page features which are

displayed to further instruct the operator of a manual operation[See Para 0052

and 0045) where the device combination includes a first device and a second device

which executes a process using a print product printed by the first device **(i.e., Para**

0032, instructions include a manual step of a finished document transferred to

another device to be completed), wherein the process flow list is a list in which a

plurality of procedures which constitute the printing job are listed in the order of

execution **(i.e., Para 0006, job ticket includes a list of instructions in order to**

produce a finished product), and wherein the plurality of procedures include a work

procedure in which a user moves the print product printed by the first device from the

first device to the second device **(i.e., Para 0032 and 0045)** and process procedures to

be performed by respective printing devices included in the device combination

obtained by said adaptive environment determination unit **(i.e., Para 0023-0025,**

electronic created job ticket includes device combinations[Para 0031] to complete

final product) and Mayhew teaches a display unit which changes a display form of a

display area of a procedure which is to be performed next among the plurality of

procedures in the process flow list **(i.e., Fig. 2-8 and Col. 2 lines 5-25, display area of**

a procedure to be performed next where the display is changed as the user

completes the required tasks).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus and method of distributing and displaying print jobs across devices of Furukawa '065 with Tonkin '568 who further teaches an improvement to the display method of Furukawa '065 of previewing print jobs distributed across a network of device and also allowing a user to edit a job to his/her liking, though both methods are not taught in a single reference it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further improve the above methods with that of Roztocil '868 who further teaches a system and method of user intervention when assembling a print job that includes multiple devices with that of Mayhew who teaches a detailed displaying method of displaying to a user a progress state of jobs across multiple devices while also being able to display procedures to a user. Roztocil '868 suggested in Para 0010-0012 that such a modification would provide an efficient system and method for managing production printing and ensuring error-free output and Mayhew further explains that such an improvement to an apparatus for displaying instructions and state information that will enable a user to work through a complex procedure using visual queues which enable an understanding of the state of execution of each job where the illustrated flow charts provide the user with a presentation of job stat and an indication of the require sequence of jobs and the relationship of jobs which must be accomplished before a succeeding job can be commenced[Col. 5 lines 13-21].

With respect to **Claim 2**, Furukawa does not explicitly teach a printing control apparatus according wherein when a plurality of device combinations exist said

adaptive environment determination unit determines an order of the device

combinations under a condition designated in advance, and presents the device

combinations in that order.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of a print control

apparatus comprising a printing control apparatus according wherein when a plurality of

device combinations exist **(i.e., 672 of Fig. 9 and Col. 13 Lines 47-51, device**

combinations of a plurality of mediums exist), said adaptive environment

determination unit determines an order of the device combinations under a condition

designated in advance **(i.e., 674 of Fig. 9, Device combinations are designated in**

advance by determination means), and presents the device combinations in that

order **(i.e.,326 of Fig. 5F, Device combinations listed in order).**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus and method of distributing

and displaying print jobs across devices of Furukawa '065 with Tonkin '568 who further

teaches an improvement to the display method of Furukawa '065 of previewing print

jobs distributed across a network of device and also allowing a user to edit a job to

his/her liking. Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that

such a modification would allow a document assembler the ability to view an image of

the assembled document and reduce the like hood of miscommunication between the ,

thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 3**, Furukawa '065 does not teach an apparatus wherein the performance information includes pieces of information on a printing speed, a cost, and a device installation place, and wherein said adaptive environment determination unit determines the order under a condition including any one of the printing speed, the cost, and the device installation place.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of a print control apparatus wherein the performance information includes pieces of information on a printing speed, a cost, and a device installation place **(i.e., Col. 13 Lines 31-41, performance information includes printing speed, cost and device installation place)**, and said adaptive environment determination unit determines the order under a condition including any one of the printing speed, the cost, and the device installation place **(i.e., Col. 13 Lines 31-41, determination unit lists the order under a condition of printing speed or cost)**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus and method of distributing and displaying print jobs across devices of Furukawa '065 with Tonkin '568 who further teaches an improvement to the display method of Furukawa '065 of previewing print jobs distributed across a network of device and also allowing a user to edit a job to his/her liking. Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the ability to view an image of

the assembled document and reduce the like hood of miscommunication between the ,

thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 4**, Furukawa '065 teaches an apparatus wherein the

apparatus further comprises state acquisition means **(i.e., Para 0050, host computer)**

for acquiring a process state of a printing device in use for executing the printing job

(i.e., Para 0050-0058, is able to acquire current process states of network

printers).

The combination of Furukawa '065 and Tonkin '568 does not explicitly teach

wherein said display unit displays, emphatically in the process flow list, the procedure

which is to be performed next, among the plurality of procedures

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Mayhew, In particular, Mayhew teaches the use of a display unit displays,

emphatically in the process flow list, the procedure which is to be performed next **(i.e.,**

Fig. 2-7), among the plurality of procedures **(i.e., Fig. 2-7)**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus of Furukawa '065 and Tonkin

'568 as taught by Mayhew since Mayhew further explains that such an improvement to

an apparatus for displaying instructions and state information that will enable a user to

work through a complex procedure using visual queues which enable an understanding

of the state of execution of each job where the illustrated flow charts provide the user

with a presentation of job stat and an indication of the require sequence of jobs and the

relationship of jobs which must be accomplished before a succeeding job can be commenced[Col. 5 lines 13-21].

With respect to **Claim 8**, Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach an apparatus wherein when the attribute of the printing job contains color printing, said adaptive environment determination unit detects monochrome and color pages contained in the printing job, and determines a device combination so as to print the monochrome page by a monochrome printing device.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of an apparatus wherein when the attribute of the printing job contains color printing, said adaptive environment determination unit detects monochrome and color pages contained in the printing job, and determines a device combination so as to print the monochrome page by a monochrome printing device **(i.e., 674 of Fig. 9, Determination unit detects monochrome and color pages and determines a device combination for printing respective pages).**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus and method of distributing and displaying print jobs across devices of Furukawa '065 with Tonkin '568 who further teaches an improvement to the display method of Furukawa '065 of previewing print jobs distributed across a network of device and also allowing a user to edit a job to his/her liking. Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the ability to view an image of

the assembled document and reduce the like hood of miscommunication between the ,

thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 9,** Furukawa '065 teaches an apparatus wherein the

apparatus further comprises a state acquisition unit **(i.e., Para 0049, Host Computer)**

configured to acquire a device state of a device included in the device combination

actually used to process the printing job **(i.e., Para 0050-0058, Host computer**

acquires a device state of a device included in the device combination)

The combination of Furukawa '065 and Tonkin '568 does not explicitly teach an

apparatus wherein said display unit changes a display state of the process flow list on

the basis of the device state acquired by said state acquisition unit.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Mayhew, In particular, Mayhew, teaches the use of an apparatus wherein

said display unit changes a display state of the process flow list on the basis of the

device state acquired by said state acquisition unit **(i.e., Fig. 2-7)**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus of Furukawa '065 and Tonkin

'568 as taught by Mayhew since Mayhew further explains that such an improvement to

an apparatus for displaying instructions and state information that will enable a user to

work through a complex procedure using visual queues which enable an understanding

of the state of execution of each job where the illustrated flow charts provide the user

with a presentation of job stat and an indication of the require sequence of jobs and the

relationship of jobs which must be accomplished before a succeeding job can be

commenced[Col. 5 lines 13-21].

With respect to **Claim 11**, Furukawa '065 teaches a printing control method **(i.e.,**

Para 0012, Print control method) for performing a printing process employing a

plurality of devices **(i.e., Para 0012, a Printing control apparatus employing a**

plurality of printers), comprising: a printing attribute acquisition step of acquiring an

attribute of a printing job to be processed **(i.e., Para 0050-0057, Host computer during**

attribute acquisition step acquires attributes such as resolution and number of

pages) an adaptive environment determination step of obtaining device combinations

(i.e., Para 0059, host computer determines match of network printers) capable of

executing the printing job based on performance information **(i.e., Para 0060 , host**

computer determines match of printers based on speed of printers) representing at

least performance of each of the plurality of devices and the acquired attribute of the

printing job **(i.e., Para 0060, host computer executes print job depending on least**

performance such as speed and acquired attribute such as number of print

pages); and Tonkin '568 teaches a display unit **(i.e., Col. 4 Lines 51, Display)**

configured to display a process flow list **(i.e., 326 of Fig. 5F and Col. 7 Lines 57 61,the**

display shows a process flow for the printing job).

The combination of Furukawa '065 and Tonkin '568 does not explicitly teach a

process flow list representing a process flow to execute the printing job by employing

the device combinations obtained by the adaptive environment determination step and

an operation method to be performed by a user in the second device, where the device

combination includes a first device and a second device which executes a process

using a print product printed by the first device, wherein the process flow list is a list in

which a plurality of procedures which constitute the printing job are listed in the order of

execution, and wherein the plurality of procedures include a work procedure in which a

user moves the print product printed by the first device from the first device to the

second device and process procedures to be performed by respective printing devices

included in the device combination obtained by said adaptive environment

determination unit and a display unit which changes a display form of a display area of a

procedure which is to be performed next among the plurality of procedures in the

process flow list.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Roztocil '868, In particular, Roztocil '868 teaches a process flow list **(i.e.,**

Para 0023 ,electronic job ticket representing instructions for assembling a job

which may be displayed) representing a process flow to execute the printing job by

employing the device combinations obtained by the adaptive environment determination

step and an operation method to be performed by a user in the second device **(i.e.,**

Para 0023 and Para 0025, defined tickets with instructions to assemble job

employing a combination of devices where the each page includes page features

which are displayed to further instruct the operator of a manual operation[See

Para 0052 and 0045) where the device combination includes a first device and a

second device which executes a process using a print product printed by the first device

(i.e., Para 0032, instructions include a manual step of a finished document

transferred to another device to be completed), wherein the process flow list is a list in which a plurality of procedures which constitute the printing job are listed in the order of execution **(i.e., Para 0006, job ticket includes a list of instructions in order to produce a finished product)**, and wherein the plurality of procedures include a work procedure in which a user moves the print product printed by the first device from the first device to the second device **(i.e., Para 0032)** and process procedures to be performed by respective printing devices included in the device combination obtained by said adaptive environment determination step **(i.e., Para 0023-0025, electronic created job ticket includes device combinations[Para 0031] to complete final product)** and Mayhew teaches a display unit which changes a display form of a display area of a procedure which is to be performed next among the plurality of procedures in the process flow list **(i.e., Fig. 2-8 and Col. 2 lines 5-25, display area of a procedure to be performed next where the display is changed as the user completes the required tasks).**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus and method of distributing and displaying print jobs across devices of Furukawa '065 with Tonkin '568 who further teaches an improvement to the display method of Furukawa '065 of previewing print jobs distributed across a network of device and also allowing a user to edit a job to his/her liking, though both methods are not taught in a single reference it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further improve the above methods with that of Roztocil '868 who further teaches a system and method

of user intervention when assembling a print job that includes multiple devices with that

of Mayhew who teaches a detailed displaying method of displaying to a user a progress

state of print jobs across multiple devices while also being able to display

comments/instructions to a user. Roztocil '868 suggested in Para 0010-0012 that such a

modification would provide an efficient system and method for managing production

printing and ensuring error-free output and Mayhew further explains that such an

improvement to an apparatus for displaying instructions and state information that will

enable a user to work through a complex procedure using visual queues which enable

an understanding of the state of execution of each job where the illustrated flow charts

provide the user with a presentation of job stat and an indication of the require

sequence of jobs and the relationship of jobs which must be accomplished before a

succeeding job can be commenced[Col. 5 lines 13-21].

With regards to the method of **Claim 13**, the limitations of the claim 13 are

corrected by limitations of claim 9 above. The steps of claim 13 read into the function

steps of claim 9.

With regards to the computer readable medium of **Claim 14**, the limitations of the

claim 14 are corrected by limitations of claim 1 above. The steps of claim 14 read into

the function steps of claim 1.

With regards to the computer program product of **Claim 15**, the limitations of the

claim 15 are corrected by limitations of claim1 above. The steps of claim 15 read into

the function steps of claim 1.

1.   Claims 7 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Furukawa et al. (hereinafter "Furukawa '065" US 2001/0046065) in view of Tonkin

(hereinafter "Tonkin '568" 6,134,568), Mayhew et al (US 6,709,176) and further in view

of Roztocil '868 and Tanimoto (hereinafter "Tanimoto '314" US PUB 2003/0206314)

         With respect to **Claim 7**, Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach an apparatus

wherein the apparatus further comprises second display unit configured to display

device combinations capable of executing the printing job so as to be able to select one

of the device combinations, and wherein said display unit displays a process flow list of

the printing process by a combination selected via said display unit.

         However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Tonkin '568 and Tanimoto '314, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the

use of an apparatus wherein the apparatus further comprises second display unit **(i.e.,**

310 of Fig. 5B, a second display screen) configured to display device combinations

capable of executing the printing job **(i.e. 435 and 436 of Fig. 5F, Devices that can be**

combined and are displayed on display unit) so as to be able to select one of the

device combinations **(i.e., Col. 7 Lines 47-48 and 316-318 of Fig 5F, User may select**

a combination) and Tanimoto '314 teaches a display unit which displays a process

flow list of the printing process by a combination selected via said display unit **(i.e., Fig.**

2A).

         In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus and method of distributing

and displaying print jobs across devices of Furukawa '065 with Tonkin '568 who further

teaches an improvement to the display method of Furukawa '065 of previewing print

jobs distributed across a network of device and also allowing a user to edit a job to

his/her liking, though both methods are not taught in a single reference it would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further improve

the above methods with that of Roztocil '868 who further teaches a system and method

of user intervention when assembling a print job that includes multiple devices with that

of Mayhew who teaches a detailed displaying method of displaying to a user a progress

state of print jobs across multiple devices while also being able to display

comments/instructions to a user and even further with Tanimoto '314 who teaches a

method of notifying an operator of a document as it is processed through a workflow

environment. Roztocil '868 suggested in Para 0010-0012 that such a modification would

provide an efficient system and method for managing production printing and ensuring

error-free output and Mayhew further explains that such an improvement to an

apparatus for displaying instructions and state information that will further help inform a

user to finish a job faster and accurately [See Col. 2 lines 5-23] and Tanimoto '314

suggested in Para 0003-0004 that such a modification would provide an improved

workflow management device that can determine a subsequent processing operation

according to the content of the image data.

With regards to the method of **Claim 12**, the limitations of the claim 12 are

corrected by limitations of claim 7 above. The steps of claim 12 read into the function

steps of claim 7.

4.   Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ' 065,

'568 in view of '868 and '176 and further in view of Fukuchi (hereinafter "Fukuchi '451"

6,128,451)

With respect to **Claim 6**, the combination of Furukawa '065, Tonkin '568 and

Roztocil '868 does not explicitly teach an apparatus wherein the process flow includes a

message which prompts checking or replenishment of an expandable used by the

printing device as a preparation process.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Fukuchi '451, In particular, Fukuchi '451 teaches the use of an apparatus

wherein the process flow includes a message which prompts checking or replenishment

of an expandable used by the printing device as a preparation process **(i.e., Col. 6**

Lines 45-51, preparation process the process flow 24 of Fig. 3 prompts

replenishment of an expandable [toner] use by the printing device as a

preparation process).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus and method of distributing

and displaying print jobs across devices of Furukawa '065 with Tonkin '568 who further

teaches an improvement to the display method of Furukawa '065 of previewing print

jobs distributed across a network of device and also allowing a user to edit a job to

his/her liking, though both methods are not taught in a single reference it would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further improve

the above methods with that of Roztocil '868 who further teaches a system and method

of user intervention when assembling a print job that includes multiple devices with that

of Mayhew who teaches a detailed displaying method of displaying to a user a progress

state of print jobs across multiple devices while also being able to display

comments/instructions to a user and Fukuchi '451 who further teaches notifying a user

in a workflow environment of a problem that exist before a next operation has started.

Roztocil '868 suggested in Para 0010-0012 that such a modification would provide an

efficient system and method for managing production printing and ensuring error-free

output and Mayhew further explains that such an improvement to an apparatus for

displaying instructions and state information that will further help inform a user to finish

a job faster and accurately [See Col. 2 lines 5-23] and Fukuchi '451 suggested in Col. 1

Lines 50-52 that such a modification would create less of a disturbance to the user.

Conclusion

5.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

        A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to DENNIS DICKER whose telephone number is (571)270-

3140. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday 7:30 A.M. to 5:00

P.M..

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571) 272-7406. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

        Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

                                                              /D. D./
                                                              Examiner, Art Unit 2625
                                                              3/10/2011

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625